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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

**CENTRAL FILL**

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. On March 24, 2020, the Commissioner of Public Health issued an Order authorizing retail pharmacies and institutional pharmacies to serve as central fill pharmacies.

In accordance with the Order, retail pharmacies and institutional pharmacies may engage in central filling activities of patient specific prescriptions or orders, including compounded sterile and complex non-sterile preparations. A central fill pharmacy may provide central filling for one or more pharmacies.

Specifically, the Order authorizes Massachusetts retail pharmacies and institutional pharmacies to conduct central filling activities for other Massachusetts pharmacies, provided the following requirements are satisfied:

- Pharmacies planning on serving as a central fill pharmacy must notify the Board or their licensing authority prior to engaging in the central filling of prescriptions.
- The central fill activities comply with requirements set forth in Board Policy 2019-01, Shared Pharmacy Service Models Including Central Fill, Central and Remote Processing, and Telepharmacy (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/policy-2019-01-shared-pharmacy-service-models-including-central-fill-central-and-remote/download>).
- In addition to their own patient needs, central fill pharmacies providing services for other pharmacies must have the capability to accurately and safely process and dispense the volume of prescriptions required.
- Pharmacies must maintain data security and establish controls to protect the confidentiality and integrity of Protected Health Information (PHI).
- Pharmacies shall comply with USP <795> and USP <797>, as applicable.

All applicable statutes, regulations, guidance not inconsistent with the Order and this guidance remain in effect.

The Order and this guidance are effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or the Order is rescinded by the Commissioner, whichever shall happen first.